

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR,US

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS ITEM

1. AP CARRYING FOLLOWING REPORT FROM MOSCOW:

QUOTE US COMPLAINED TO THE SOVIET UNION ABOUT WHAT IT REGARDS AS DISTORTED AND STRIDENT COMMENTARY IN THE OFFICIAL PRESS HERE ABOUT SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER'S MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA, AMERICAN SOURCES REPORTED FRIDAY.

US OFFICIALS, WHILE ACCUSTOMED TO SOVIET PRESS CRITICISM OF AMERICAN POLICY AND MOVES, ARE PARTICULARLY MIFFED OVER MOSCOW'S PORTRAYAL OF KISSINGER'S TRIP AS AN EFFORT TO PRESERVE THE QUOTE RACIST REGIMES UNQUOTE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA.

KISSINGER VISITED TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA AND ARRIVED FRIDAY IN PRETORIA, THE SOUTH AFRICAN CAPITAL.

QUOTE WE ARE PRETTY DISTURBED BY THE STRIDENT TONE, AND  
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MORE THAN THAT, WHAT SEEMS TO BE A DELIBERATE MISREPRESENTATION

TATION OF KISSINGER'S PURPOSE, UNQUOTE ONE US SOURCE SAID.  
QUOTE IT SIMPLY IS NOT SO. UNQUOTE

THE STATE CONTROLLED MEDIA HAS BEEN FLOODED IN RECENT DAY  
WITH UNIFORMLY NEGATIVE ARTICLES ON THE STATE SECRETARY'S  
AFRICAN TRIP WHICH KISSINGER HAS BILLED AS A QUEST FOR  
QUOTE PEACE, JUSTICE AND PROGRESS. UNQUOTE THE OFFICIAL  
TASS NEWS AGENCY SAID IN A DISPATCH FROM LUSAKA FRIDAY,  
QUOTE THE US SECRETARY OF STATE HAS COME TO DISCUSS WAYS  
AND MEANS TO SAVE THE RACIST STATES WHICH ARE IN THE  
THROES OF AN UNPRECEDENTLY BROAD LIBERATION MOVEMENT.  
UNQUOTE

US OFFICIALS HAVE QUOTE ORALLY UNQUOTE COMPLAINED TO  
SOVIET OFFICIALS THAT THEY CONSIDER THIS KIND OF  
COMMENTARY BOTH INACCURATE AND NOT IN THE BEST INTERESTS  
OF IMPROVING US-SOVIET RELATIONS, SOURCES REPORTED. IT  
WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE COMPLAINTS WERE MADE IN  
WASHINGTON OR MOSCOW OR BOTH CAPITALS.

WESTERN POLITICAL ANALYSTS BELIEVE THE PROPAGANDA  
OFFENSIVE AGAINST KISSINGER'S MISSION IS AIMED AT  
OFFSETTING ANY DIPLOMATIC TRIUMPH IN AFRICA SIMILAR  
TO THE SECRETARY'S PAST ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

QUOTE THEY DO NOT WANT TO CONCEDE THAT THE US POSITION  
HAS SWUNG TOWARD PROMOTING MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN  
AFRICA, UNQUOTE ONE DIPLOMAT SAID. END OF TEXT.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENT ON THIS REPORT. ROBINSON

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